



# Mountain Flyer

**Col Rodney F. Moody, Commander**

**Capt Jeffrey E. Schrock, Director of Public Affairs**

**Maj Amelia G. Brooks, Editor**

**Volume 2005 Number 2**



## CALENDAR

*25-30 Jun WV Wing Cadet Summer Encampment—Camp Dawson*

*1-2 Jul WV Wing Cadet Encampment (Continued)*

*8-10 Jul WV Wing SAREX Competition—Buckhannon (W22)*

*17-23 Jul MER Staff College—Peace College, Raleigh, NC*

*25-31 Jul WV Wing Aerospace Education Trip to AirVenture—Oshkosh, WI*

*6 Aug WV Wing Safety Seminar—Charleston HQ*

*19-31 Aug WV Wing SAREX—Bluefield (BLF)*

*27 Aug WV Wing Mission Information Officer Workshop—Clarksburg HQ*

*9-11 Sep WV Wing SAREX—Wheeling (HLG)*

*17-18 Sep SLS School—Parkersburg HQ*

*8-9 Oct CLC Course—Clarksburg HQ*

*14-16 Oct MER SAR College—Ft. Pickett, VA*

*15-21 Oct CAP National Staff College—Maxwell AFB, AL*

*22 Oct WV Wing Conference, Banquet, and Change of Command Ceremony—Marriott Hotel, Charleston, WV*

## USAF Graded Emergency Services Exercise Completed Successfully

Lt Col Dennis D. Barron  
Mission Information Officer  
West Virginia Wing

Nearly 100 members of the West Virginia Wing and the U. S Air Force reported to the Headquarters of the Clarksburg Squadron, on May 21<sup>st</sup> for the Wing's graded emergency services exercise. The exercise, hosted by the Clarksburg Squadron, was designed by the Air Force to test the Wing's capabilities and training in Search and Rescue missions, in addition to Homeland Security operations. Numerous Air Force evaluators were on hand to observe the work of the mission staff, as well as both ground and air operations throughout the day. The evaluators provided lots of feedback to the participants throughout the exercise, and at the end of the day, deemed the entire exercise **"Successful"**.

Lt Col Eugene Thorn served as the Incident Commander and directed both air and ground operations over the northern and central part of the state as part of the evaluated exercise. Most of the exercise consisted of locating numerous Electronic Locator Transmitters, missing aircraft, and locating and photographing some "stolen" barges on the Ohio River.

**One of the highlights of this evaluated exercise was the Wing's introduction into the operation of the Satellite Digital Imaging System (SDIS). The Middle East Region provided an aircraft and instructor to train the West Virginia Wing personnel in the use of the SDIS system. This specially equipped aircraft can photograph targets in real time, sending the pictures instantly to computers and video screens at mission headquarters. According to Lt Col Eugene Thorn, this new SDIS system can be invaluable during times of natural disasters or Homeland Security missions.**

Throughout the exercise, the Wing utilized seven CAP aircraft and 16 vehicles to complete the various tasks assigned by the Air Force evaluators. Members from 10 different units from across the Wing participated in the exercise.

Press coverage of the day long exercise was extensive as reporters from two local television stations and the Clarksburg newspaper visited the mission based and filed news reports with their media outlets.

Lt Col Thorn praised the participants for an outstanding job during the evaluated exercise and noted that the West Virginia Wing is ready for any type of emergency services mission. (See page two for additional pictures of the exercise.)



Image of New Martinsville transmitted by SDIS



# Additional Photographs From the Graded SAREX



The Air Operations Staff Briefs the Crew before Launching a Sortie of an Aircraft on the Mission



SDIS Transmitted Picture of Wheeling Island Direct From the Aircraft to the Mission Base at Clarksburg



Cadet Daniel Efaw Passes Radio Traffic in the Communications Room



The Pilot in Command briefs the Aircrew Prior to Launching on a Mission Sortie



The Ground Operations Section Debriefs a Ground Team After They Return from a Mission Sortie



The USAF Team Leader Briefs WV Wing Mission Personnel Prior to the Graded Exercise



# West Virginia Wing Honors Susan V. Chernenko Director of the WV Aeronautics Commission

Maj Amelia G. Brooks  
Assistant Public Affairs Officer  
West Virginia Wing

Recently, Col Rodney F. Moody, Commander, of the West Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol had the pleasure of presenting Mrs. Susan V. Chernenko, Director of the WV Aeronautics Commission with a Civil Air Patrol, limited numbered print entitled, "We Were There." The print depicts the CAP aircraft that flew over the World Trade Center in New York City on a photo reconnaissance mission shortly after the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 terrorist's attack

This special gift of appreciation was presented to her for the endless support that she has provided to the WV Wing of Civil Air Patrol. As a result of her leadership and the support of West Virginia Governor, Joe Manchin, III, the West Virginia Wing has seen its state funding support increase significantly over the past three years along with a change of the restrictions on the state budget expenditures that has allowed the Wing to better fulfill its obligations to the state and to the people of West Virginia.

Mrs. Chernenko represents the state of West Virginia as a member of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO). In 2003, she was elected to serve as Chairman of NASAO for the 2003-2004 year and was the first woman to be elected to this national position. NASAO, one of the most senior aviation organizations in the country, is responsible for representing the views of the states to the U.S. Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration. She previously served as NASAO Vice Chairman and as Chairman of the NASAO Center for Aviation research and Education.

Susan has served in West Virginia State Government over twenty-eight years, beginning as a staff member to former Governor John D. Rockefeller IV. Upon Creation of the West Virginia Department of Transportation in 1989, Mrs. Chernenko was Executive Assistant to the first Secretary of Transportation. In that capacity, she also served as Aeronautics Commission Director representing West Virginia on national and state transportation and aviation committees. In 1991, she was appointed by former Governor Gaston Caperton as Director of Administration for the Governor's office. She returned to the Department of Transportation in 1997 and has served as Aeronautics Director to the present time. She is Chairman of the Federal Aviation Administration/National Association of State Aviation Officials Intergovernmental Oversight Committee and Chairman of the NASAO Nominations Committee. She is an appointed member of The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials/National Association of State Aviation Officials Joint Standing Committee On Aviation; she represents 12 states on this 10-member committee. Mrs. Chernenko is also a member of the American Association of Airport executives (AAAE) and Airports Council International-North America.

She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and resides with her husband, Gary, in Charleston, West Virginia. The West Virginia Wing is proud to be affiliated with and to work under the direction of Susan V. Chernenko.



Susan V. Chernenko receives a copy of a print of a CAP aircraft over the World Trade Center from Col Rodney F. Moody, Commander, West Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol

## WV Wing Cadet Competition

The West Virginia Wing held its Cadet competition on 5 Feb 05 at the Air National Guard Base in Charleston, WV. Units from Beckley, Charleston, and Clarksburg participated in the activity. Charleston Cadet and Clarksburg Composite Squadrons were tied in the competition portion, but the Charleston unit was declared the winner after using the tiebreak.

# Major Danny Caldwell Appointed Commander of Mercer Composite Squadron

Maj James Coiner  
Public Affairs Officer  
Mercer County Composite Squadron

Maj Danny Caldwell of Bluefield has been appointed Commander of the Mercer County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. He succeeds Lt Col Larry D. Smith who had a long and distinguished tenure as Squadron Commander.

Maj Caldwell has been a CAP member since 1991. He has served the squadron, in part, as Cadet Commander, Safety Officer, and Operations Officer. Maj Caldwell's CAP qualifications include: Mission Observer, Mission Pilot Trainee, and Ground Team Leader. He has been involved in many practice and actual emergency operations as both an aircrew member and ground team member. Maj Caldwell has received countless Civil Air Patrol awards that include several Commanders' Accommodations, Safety Officer of the Year for the West Virginia Wing in 1998, and a national award for superior service as Deputy Commander for Cadets.

Maj Caldwell is a 2002 honors graduate of Bluefield State College with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering Technology. While he attended BSC he was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineering. He has been employed at Consol Energy in Tazewell, Virginia as an engineering draftsman since September 2003. Caldwell is married to Andrea Caldwell from Morgantown who is a CPA in Bluefield.

One of Maj Caldwell's primary goals for the squadron includes the campaign to secure funding for a new building for the squadron at the Mercer County Airport. "I'm optimistic that the citizens of the area will help us construct a decent facility so we will have a healthy and safe place for cadet and senior member training and emergency operations that include the newest mission - - Homeland Security." Squadron members are enthusiastic with Maj Caldwell's appointment to Commander.

John Caldwell, Danny's father was a 19 year member of the Bluefield Civil Air Patrol during the 1960s and 1970s. He is quite proud that his son has not only followed in his footsteps as a CAP member but also is now the Squadron Commander.



Major Danny R. Caldwell

## Parkersburg Composite Squadron Cadets Take Helicopter Rides for Aerospace Education Activity

Lt Col Dick Loew  
Aerospace Education Officer  
Parkersburg Composite Squadron

On 14 May 2005, Parkersburg Composite Squadron Cadets were privileged to ride Army National Guard "Blackhawk" helicopters. Thanks to General Tackett, his staff and the crew who made the morning rides possible.

The question to cadets was, "How many of you would like to fly 'Blackhawks'?" In response there was a resounding "YES!"

This activity was in keeping with the Aerospace Education program for cadets in The Parkersburg Composite Squadron.

A fantastic time was had by all.





# Emergency Services Ground Team Training at the Boone Composite Squadron

2nd Lt Betty White  
Public Affairs Officer  
Boone Composite Squadron

Members of the Boone Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol held Emergency Services training classes on April 1-3, 2005 at the local Squadron Headquarters on Lick Creek Road, Danville. Classes were conducted in Field Gear Equipment, Hot and Cold Weather Injuries, Use of a Compass, Map Reading, and classes relating to Safety issues while on a search and rescue mission. The purpose of this training is to equip the members to serve on a search and rescue ground team. Before a member is qualified as a ground team member he or she must take more than 50 classes in search and rescue and survival skills. Members attending the recent training were Senior Members: Lt Col. Virgil Martin and Capt Carol Martin. Cadets: C/SrA Bobby White, C/Amn Ashley Mackall, C/SrA Zack Cox, C/A1C Matthew Capua, C/Bas Michael Walker, and C/Bas Michael Hughes. The local squadron is a partner with the Boone County Office of Emergency Services and can be called upon to assist when needed.



Civil Air Patrol Cadets Ashley Mackall and Bobby White pose as injured victims for a recent Emergency Services Training conducted by the local CAP Squadron.

Shown taking part in a class on Universal Precautions for Bloodborne Pathogens is Cadet Michael Hughes.



Civil Air Patrol Cadet Zach Cox and Captain Carol Martin "bring up the rear" as the local unit returns from a testing site near Little Horse Creek Road where the cadets demonstrated their navigation skills as part of a weekend of Emergency Services Training.

## WV State Funding Provides for Extensive Emergency Services Training for the West Virginia Wing of Civil Air Patrol

Maj James Coiner  
Public Affairs Officer  
Mercer County Composite Squadron

Recently, funding was available for Emergency Services Aircrew training from the West Virginia Wing's annual state allocation. Shown in the photograph is Flight Officer Ryan Blankenship of the Mercer Composite Squadron flying near Athens, WV. He is a student at Concord University and was able to see the campus from the air during a training sortie. Maj Jim Coiner was the pilot with Capt Terry Childress as the co-pilot. This photo shows the joy on the face of one of our young members getting to fly and contribute to the Emergency Services Missions of Civil Air Patrol.





# WV Wing Completes the Second Cadet Leadership Training Course at the Mine Academy

Lt Col Dennis D. Barron  
Inspector General  
West Virginia Wing

The West Virginia Wing's second Cadet Leadership Training Course (CLTC-II) was conducted during the weekend of April 8 – 10, 2005, at the U. S. Mine Safety and Health Academy, in Beckley, WV. Twenty of the Wing's best and brightest cadets, all of whom had attained the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant or higher, reported to the Mine Academy for a weekend of advanced leadership training and encampment planning.

Seven squadrons were represented at the Leadership Training Course, where the emphasis was on communications (public speaking), drill and ceremonies, Drug Demand Reduction training, and encampment planning.

All of the cadets came to the leadership course with a three minute prepared speech on a leadership topic. Later, the cadets had to present a two minute impromptu speech. Both the prepared and impromptu speeches were outstanding and the cadets gained valuable experience in public speaking.

Between speeches, the cadets were trained to be instructors with the Fatal Vision Goggles as part of the DDR program, learned the importance of mentoring other cadets, practiced their drill and ceremonial skills, and competed in several intense volleyball games.

The director of CLTC-II was Lt Col Dennis Barron. He praised the cadets for their hard work during the weekend and expressed his expectation that these cadets would begin to assume major leadership roles at their home squadrons and also at the summer encampment in June.



Graduates of the Second West Virginia Wing Cadet Leadership School



Cadets at the Leadership School Participate in Volleyball Matches to Develop their Teamwork Skills

## Wheeling Composite Squadron Conducts Crash Site Security

Lt Col James R. Atkinson  
Safety Officer  
Wheeling Composite Squadron

On the night of 10-11 March 2005 personnel from the Wheeling Composite Squadron and WV Wing Headquarters performed a crash site security mission. The aircraft a Piper Cherokee PA-28 was on a flight from Lima, OH to Garrett County Airport, MD. The aircraft crashed during a snow storm due to icing conditions eight miles south of Cameron, WV within 100 feet of US route 250. The pilot survived the incident with minor injuries. Personnel participating in the mission were Col Bernard E. Dalton, Lt Col James R. Atkinson, 2nd Lt Stephen G. Finney all of WV049, and Lt Col David C. Brooks of WV001.



# Senior Training Awards

**Gill Robb Wilson Award:** Lt Col Rodney A. Moore, WV038

**Grover Loening Award:** Capt Donald G. Robbins, WV060; Maj Dallas E. Swepston, WV100

# Cadet Training Awards

**Gen Billy Mitchell Award:** Cadet Anthony J. Mishoe, WV113

# WV Wing Conducts Winter Indoor Training

Maj Amelia G. Brooks  
Assistant Public Affairs Officer  
West Virginia Wing

The West Virginia Wing took advantage of the bad weather during the months of January and February to hold three schools vital to all senior members and to the operation of the Wing. Since the beginning of each year typically does not permit aircrews to fly too many hours, the Wing Command Staff seized the opportunity to hold a Mission Pilot/Mission Observer ground school, a class for Incident Commanders, and a training school for Assistant Wing Inspectors.

A total of sixty-six seniors attended and graduated from the three schools held at the U.S. Department of Labor's National Mine Health and Safety Academy at Beckley, WV. All courses were taught in compliance with Civil Air Patrol Regulations, Manuals, and Emergency Services reference materials.

The two-day sessions for the Mission/Pilot and Mission Observer ground school concentrated on the following topics: Mission Aircrew Duties, Communications, Weather, Navigation, Search Planning and Coverage, Electronic Search, and Crew Resource Management, A Typical Mission, and Table Top Mission Planning. The Incident Commanders two-day course covered the following topics: The Incident Command System, Working with the AFRCC, Search Management, Area of Probability, Risk Management, Mission Management, Responsibility of Command, The Mission Kit, Legal Aspects of SAR, and a Table Top Mission.

The Assistant Wing Inspector School was also very well attended and the first morning all students were presented with a notebook that contained a complete up-to-date set of CAP regulations and Manuals on CD-ROM, a current CAP Subordinate Unit Inspection Guide and the Power-Point Slide Handouts for the two day program. The course opened with a welcome and an overview of the school. Morning topics the first day were as follows: Origin and History of the Inspectors General, The Assessment Program, Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, Emergency Services, Counter Drug, and Operations. Afternoon sessions touched on Aircraft Management, Communications, Safety, Professional Development, and the Chaplain program. The second day, Finance, Administration, Personnel, Public Affairs, Supply, Transportation, Real Property, Drug Demand Reduction, and Command were the topics covered.

The school concluded with sessions on Writing the Assessment Report and Organization of the Wing Inspection Program. In order to provide some practical experience; a mock inspection was conducted by the students attending the school.

Feedback from the course critiques was very positive and encouraging. The long hours of time and effort the instructors spent in preparing for these schools showed from the positive comments voiced by all of the participants who were in residence at the facility for each of the two-day courses.



Incident Commanders Course  
Graduates and Instructors



Mission Pilot and Mission Observer  
Course Graduates and Instructors



Assistant Inspector's Course  
Graduates and Instructors



# WV Wing Public Affairs Roundtable

Capt Jeffery Schrock  
Director of Public Affairs  
West Virginia Wing

A roundtable discussing the role of the public affairs officer was held at the headquarters of the West Virginia Wing in Charleston, WV on March 19, 2005.

Seven unit PAO's attended to discuss ideas, and ways to maintain an active public affairs program. Those attending were: 2nd Lt Jaime Cumbridge from Boone Composite Squadron; 1st Lt George and Lt Col Mildred Dragonir from Wheeling Composite Squadron; Maj Jim Coiner from Bluefield Composite Squadron; 1st Lt John Carr from Clarksburg Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt Kelly Cahill from Greenbrier Composite Squadron, 2nd Lt J.P Hale and Maj William Farley from Beckley Composite Squadron, and SFO Amanda Brubaker from Charleston Cadet Squadron.

From WV Wing staff attending were Lt Col David Brooks, Wing Vice Commander, Maj Amelia Brooks, Editor of the Wing's newsletter, and Capt Jeffery Schrock, Wing Director of Public Affairs. Discussion centered around the role of the public affairs officer, how the media is helpful in promoting the image of CAP. Several television spots were also shown to the group.

Lunch was provided by the Wing Public Affairs Staff. A Mission Information Officer Course will be held on August 27 at Wing Headquarters for all interested, and current Mission Incident Commanders. Anyone wanting to become a Mission Information Officer is also invited.

## CAP Squadron Plays Major Role in Helping Fifty-Two Boy Scouts of America Complete Aviation Merit Badges

Capt Donald Robbins  
Logistics Officer  
Morgantown Composite Squadron

As part of CAP's external aviation education program, on 6 Mar 2005, Maj Rick Heis, of the Morgantown Composite Squadron Conducted an Aviation merit badge class for the Boy Scouts of America. Several Aviation Explorers/CAP members were on hand to assist with the activities.

The day long activities culminated in 52 Boy Scouts earning their aviation merit badges. Discussions started with the aircraft systems, the four forces acting upon the aircraft, types of aircraft, aviation schools, aviation organizations, military aviation, and the layout of the Morgantown airport. There were educational tours of the airport, air traffic control tower, training in flight line procedures, and aircraft pre-flight procedures.

Maj Heis is the BSA district counselor for aviation merit badge for the Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, and Marion county area. Maj Heis is also an air traffic controller, aviation weather observer, CAP mission pilot, and active in the dual chartered Morgantown Composite Squadron CAP and Aviation Explorer Post 747.

The CAP/BSA unit is very active in the external aerospace education arena with an active speakers bureau consisting of Cadets and a few Senior leaders.



Left: Major Rick Heis Teaches  
a Class on Aviation



Right: Boy Scouts and Parents  
Listen to a Lecture



# Martinsburg Composite Squadron Hosts Statewide Search and Rescue Exercise

2nd Lt Russell G. Voelker  
Public Affairs Officer  
Martinsburg Composite Squadron

*(Martinsburg, WV) A military aircraft flying near Martinsburg develops an on board fire and crashes. No one on the ground was injured and all of the flight crew were able to parachute from the aircraft.. Due to weather conditions in the area they all came down a distance from one another.*

This is the scenario for a recent statewide Civil Air Patrol Search and Rescue exercise. The exercise began on 23 April 2005 and lasted until 30 April 2005. As the host, Martinsburg Squadron set up headquarters at the Eastern WV Regional Airport's Experimental Aircraft Association Hangar and coordinated the exercise with the help of the Civil Air Patrol's radio communications network. This exercise was designed to evaluate volunteers skills in search and rescue techniques. Pilots and observers tested flying and observation skills required for aerial searches while ground teams practiced land navigation skills and refined their first-aid knowledge. The teams used tracking devices that picked up locations of distress beacons as relayed by search and rescue satellites.

Due to weather conditions, over the weekend, only 2 of 7 WV Wing CAP aircraft were able to fly. Ground teams from: Beckley, Boone, Clarksburg, Greenbrier, Martinsburg, Mercer and Morgantown units were able to locate their "targets"



Lt Col Barron, Cadet Giney, Cadet Wilson, Cadet Hume, and Maj Mills Prepare to Sortie their Ground Team

1st Lt Sylvia Kerby Handles the Radio Room and Maintains Contact with the Aircraft and Ground Teams

Lt Col David Brooks, Incident Commander and Lt Col Dennis Barron, Ground Team Leader Research the Regulations

## Capt Jeffery Schrock Tours Kennedy Space Center

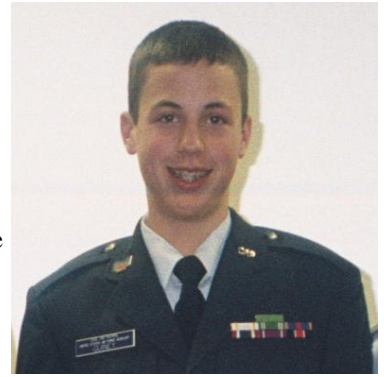
Wing Director of Public Affairs Capt Jeffery Schrock toured the Kennedy Space Center and Visitor Complex on 17 May 2005. Each year, nearly two million guests from around the world experience their very own space adventure by exploring the exciting past, present and future of America's space program. Built in 1967 as a means for NASA astronauts' and employees' families to view space center operations, today the visitor complex is of one central Florida's most popular tourist destinations.

Taking the KSC tour is a must-see experience. The tour takes guests on a narrated, video supplemented bus tour. The first stop is the Launch Complex 39 Observation Gantry, where guests enjoy a panoramic view of KSC, Space Shuttle launch pads, and rocket launch pads at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Guests did have a chance to see Space Shuttle Discovery on Launch Pad 39-B during this tour. Discovery is set for a July launch.

The second stop is the Apollo/Saturn visitor center. Guests relive the historic launch of Apollo 8 at the Firing Room theater, then marvel at a monstrous 363-foot Saturn V moon rocket, and one of only three rockets in existence. Finally, the Lunar theater provides a rare look at the final moments before man landed on the moon.

Several exhibits also to see include the Rocket Garden and a full-size Orbiter Shuttle "Explorer" replica. The Astronaut Memorial honors the 24 U.S. Astronauts who gave their lives for space exploration. The visitor complex is open daily from 9 a.m. to approximately dusk, except Christmas Day and certain launch days. Guests should plan to spend a full day for a complete experience.

It was 7 a.m. on Wednesday, May the 11<sup>th</sup>. There we were, a group of groggy, sleepy-eyed teenagers, yawning around the crowd of mocha-sipping D.C. commuters; our student council was going to the nation's capitol as an educational field trip. The purpose of the trip was to just go and see the sights and, maybe, corner an unsuspecting Senator. We were going to introduce the federal government to its juvenile counterpart, and vice versa. We stepped off the train around 9 o'clock or so and joined the walking commuters on their way to work. Well, actually, I shouldn't say walk. I'd say it was more like a dreary trudge. They all had dismal expressions on their faces like their homes were being repossessed, it was depressing. The possibility of my joining corporate America as my career was promptly squashed. What good would it be if it made me that miserable, I ask you? Well, a few hours later there we were, in the capitol building, observing the architecture of the structure as well as the position of John Adam's foot in an apparently very famous painting. It was a pretty good tour, as it turned out. But, when we were headed down to the Senate chambers, our day took a rather exciting turn. One second, everything was as it should be; people were going about their business as usual. The next, it was chaos. It seemed as though the room had erupted into a furious tornado of disorder and panic. The message given to us by security and police officers was to get out immediately; which I found alarming, because the message is never to get out as fast as you can, but to exit without panic and in an orderly fashion. "Run" they told us, and run we did. I was briefly reminded of the fire drill that took place at encampment at 11 o'clock at night. "So", a friend said to me as we ran from the Capitol. "Does the Civil Air Patrol have anything to say about this?" "Do what the cops tell you", I replied. "And don't contradict them!" So out we went, over the presidential parking lot and toward Union Station. There was a general sense of fear and confusion. Then there was a pair of F-16 Falcons that flew so close overhead it rang in our eardrums. It was like the loudest thunder you've ever heard multiplied by ten. Then, the news of the cause of the scare began to make its way around the crowds. A small airplane, a Cessna, had entered the restricted airspace of the Capitol area, causing a large security scare. I found this suspicious because the fact that the Nation's Capitol is a no-fly zone is common knowledge to anyone who has any experience with aviation. But, as we learned later, the pilot had apparently gotten confused and entered the airspace without his knowledge. There was a wide-spread sense of relief as the crowds dissipated. The feeling was that at least it wasn't something worse. All in all, I was surprised by the quickness and efficiency of the evacuation. It seemed that the entire building had been emptied in less than five minutes. The security and police officers looked reasonably composed, for the most part. The only problem that we saw had to do with evacuating the senators. It seems that they each loaded into a personal SUV. The vehicles then roared out of the Capitol area at an astounding speed. If a fleeing person had accidentally stumbled or tripped into the street, it would have been nearly impossible for the driver to stop or swerve in time to avoid a collision. But, the experience was something that's not likely to be forgotten. Instead of the senators, we watched all the personnel in the Capitol area hurled out onto the sidewalk.



C/SMSgt Mark Guiney, WV020